



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR NORTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, BURNETT, DOUGLAS, IRON, PRICE, RUSK, SAWYER, TAYLOR, WASHBURN

February
2005
(published
March 9, 2005)

Unemployment Climbs as Temperatures Dip

The unemployment rate for January in Northwest Wisconsin rose to 7.1 percent from 5.6 percent in December. The January rate may be higher than in December but is still lower than the unemployment rate of 7.8 percent of January 2004.

January unemployment rates were lower than one year ago in 58 of the state's 72 counties including eight of the ten coun-

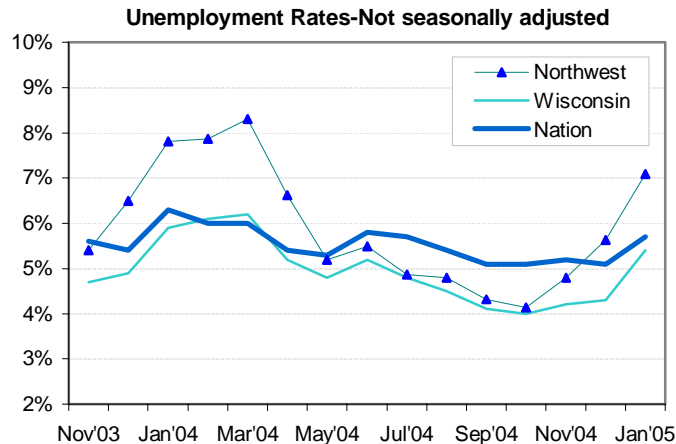
ties in Northwest Wisconsin. Unemployment rates were higher than one year ago in Burnett and Taylor counties. All 72 counties in the state posted an increase in unemployment rates from December.

The release of the January 2005 estimate includes revisions to the estimates previously published for each month of 2004. Revising the 2004 estimates is

the reason that the release of January estimates occurs in March and not February. The revised estimates reveal that more residents in Northwest Wisconsin were employed in January 2004 and fewer unemployed than previously estimated. In some of the northwest counties the changes were significant.

The labor force in January 2005 included 90,470 employed residents in the northwest region and 6,895 residents out of work and looking for a job compared with one year ago when there were 90,520 employed residents and 7,675 unemployed. Since December there are 1,580 fewer employed residents and the number of unemployed increased by 1,400. An increase of this size in the region's unemployed is typical in January and, in fact, this year's rise is the smallest hike in this decade.

The increase in the number of residents unemployed in Northwest Wisconsin in January re-



	Nov'03	Dec'03	Jan'04	Nov'04	Dec'04	Jan'05
Northwest	5.4%	6.5%	7.8%	4.8%	5.6%	7.1%
Wisconsin	4.7%	4.9%	5.9%	4.2%	4.3%	5.4%
Nation	5.6%	5.4%	6.3%	5.2%	5.1%	5.7%

Civilian Labor Force Estimates* for Northwest Wisconsin counties: January 2005

	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04
Labor force	9,948	10,037	9,960	8,928	8,984	8,897	7,924	7,920	8,050	23,080	23,179	22,833	4,687	4,698	4,768
Employed	9,365	9,568	9,256	8,252	8,431	8,157	7,329	7,446	7,473	21,588	21,953	21,149	4,370	4,400	4,380
Unemployed	583	469	704	676	553	740	595	474	577	1,492	1,226	1,684	317	298	388
% unemployed	5.9	4.7	7.1	7.6	6.2	8.3	7.5	6.0	7.2	6.5	5.3	7.4	6.8	6.3	8.1

	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04
Labor force	8,619	8,534	8,474	7,214	7,265	7,546	8,331	8,442	8,357	10,795	10,673	11,304	7,839	7,822	8,007
Employed	8,197	8,201	7,946	6,570	6,791	6,814	7,621	7,871	7,585	9,959	10,044	10,456	7,219	7,349	7,306
Unemployed	422	333	528	644	474	732	710	571	772	836	629	848	620	473	701
% unemployed	4.9	3.9	6.2	8.9	6.5	9.7	8.5	6.8	9.2	7.7	5.9	7.5	7.9	6.0	8.8

* not seasonally adjusted

Industry Employment Estimates for Northwest Wisconsin: Current month - January 2005

(Employment in thousands)	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04
Total Nonfarm	8.9	9.1	8.6	3.8	3.9	3.7	4.9	5.1	5.0	17.3	17.9	17.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Trade	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	2.9	3.0	2.9	0.4	0.4	0.4
Transportation & Utilities	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Financial Activities	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Education & Health Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.7	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	2.1	2.2	2.1	0.4	0.4	0.4
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	2.8	2.8	3.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Government	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	3.0	3.2	2.9	0.4	0.4	0.4
	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04	Jan '05	Dec '04	Jan '04
Total Nonfarm	7.0	7.0	6.5	5.6	5.8	5.5	6.7	7.0	6.6	9.2	9.3	9.2	5.9	6.1	5.9
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.3	1.9	2.0	1.9	0.4	0.5	0.4	2.8	2.8	2.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.0	0.9
Transportation & Utilities	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Financial Activities	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Education & Health Services	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.5	1.3	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total Government	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.2	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2004 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

flects an increase in the number of residents filing claims for unemployment compensation benefits. In mid-December 2004 3,067 residents filed a claim for unemployment compensation benefits. By mid-January 2005 that increased to 4,346 residents filing claims for benefits, down 468 from one year ago.

The estimate of unemployed includes more than just those residents who filed a claim for unemployment compensation benefits since not every one out of a job qualifies for unemployment benefits. Every month the U.S. Census Bureau surveys households nationwide. The survey is conducted the week that includes the 12th day of the month. The results are published in the Current Population Survey and are incorporated into state and county labor force estimates for both the number of unemployed and employed.

The number of residents filing a claim for unemployment benefits is used in the local formula but the estimate also includes new job seekers and those out of work and looking for a job but who do qualify for unemployment benefits.

The number of resident employed is also greater than the number of jobs reported in the nonfarm wage and salary employment series. Non-farm jobs, which include the number of payroll jobs with employers located in the northwest region, numbered 71,400 in January 2005. The total number of employed in the region was much greater and includes an estimate, based on the monthly census survey, of the number of residents who work for employers not located in the region, who are self-employed or proprietors, or who work for an employer not covered by Wisconsin's unemployment insurance

law; ie: railroads or work-study programs.

Nonfarm wage and salary jobs which include the number of payroll jobs with employers located in the Northwest region numbered 71,400 in January 2005. The number of nonfarm jobs declined from December and like the increase in unemployment claims reflects the seasonal trends often experienced in this area. Compared with one year ago, there are 980 more jobs in the region. Education and health services employers added 270 jobs to the regional economy in the last twelve months, the greatest increase posted among the major industry sectors. All industry sectors posted more jobs in January 2005 than one year ago, even manufacturing where employment declined from December but is up 30 jobs from January 2004.



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